

Hometown Proud for
Jalen Hurts, Page 3

Lady Mustangs Advance in
Playoffs, Page 5



'18TH ANNUAL SENIORS VALENTINE'S DANCE' Pct. 6 Deputy M. Gonzalez dancing with senior Ernesto Guerra at Ana's Valentine's dance party. (Allan Jamail photo). See Story Below and on page 6

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CURRENTS

North Channel Chamber Honors Local Businesses and Leaders at 48th Annual Gala

Sherrhonda Hunter Black History Month Honoree



Sherrhonda Hunter, Executive Director for School and Community Relations.

By Allan Jamail
First of a series

Houston, TX. ~ February is the beginning of the annual celebration for Black History Month to be observed from February 1st until March 1st.

What is Black History Month? is an annually observed commemorative month originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History.

For generations, African-Americans have contributed to inventions, food, music, business, science, and culture that we know as American. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the displacement of African's but now it's to recognize the achievements of today's deserving individuals.

I remember the days as a child when my mother took my sister, brother and me to the Houston zoo, there I saw Black's not being allowed to drink from the same water fountains as us White's nor use our restrooms... those disgraceful signs

Continued. See BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Page 5

Channelview's Jalen Hurts MVP in Super Bowl win



Channelview High School and the community were rooting for alumnus Jalen Hurts in Super Bowl LIX.

The Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback from Channelview was aiming to become an NFL champion two years after a Super Bowl loss against the Kansas City Chiefs. The teams faced each other again Sunday in New Orleans, and Hurts led the Eagles to an outstanding 40-22 victory, and was named the MVP.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts is a product of Channelview High School of Houston.

Continued. See JALEN HURTS SUPER BOWL MVP, Page 3

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Every year, the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates their member businesses who promote business and quality of life initiatives in the North Channel area. Last Friday night, they celebrated their 48th Annual Membership Awards and Installation Gala inside the elegant Hyatt Regency Baytown and a dozen or more left with hardware to commemorate their year's investment in the community.

The attire was themed Masquerade and members obliged with Mardi Gras, Phantom of the Opera, Venetian, and Carnival ball styled masks.

Once the cocktail party and gala fare was complete, Dr. Alexander Okwonna, Chamber Board Chair-elect and Provost for San Jacinto College North served as Master of Ceremonies and



Judge Joe Stephens swears in the 2025 North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce officers and board members at the annual installation and awards gala.

opened the awards ceremony thanking gala title sponsors and welcoming elected officials.

"The Chamber views everyone in attendance tonight as a special guest. However, we know the work of our Chamber is made eas-

ier thanks to the support of our local elected officials and representatives of key Chamber member businesses or organizations," he said.

Okwonna then called forward the officers and board members for the new year. "As a board member, I

have seen firsthand the efforts of our volunteer leadership. The Chamber would not be as successful and not likely not even exist without their sacrifice and support," he said.

He also thanked Bill Pal-

ko for his service to the Chamber in 2024 and Ken Wimbley for accepting the leadership role for 2025. Board members were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Joe Stephens.

Continued. See NC CHAMBER LUNCHEON, Page 6

Rep. Ana Hernandez 18th Annual Seniors Valentine's Dance



State Representative Ana Hernandez (center) and her 20 volunteers who provided 400 seniors a Valentine's party. (photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Channelview, TX. ~ February 7, 2025 at the Moreno's Reception Hall State District 143 Rep. Hernandez continued her annual seniors Valentine's luncheon, party and dance. This year's event was well attended with about 400 participants.

Ana began the event

welcoming her guests and explained why she was wearing a leg brace and using a wheel chair. She said several weeks ago she and her son Gregory was snow skiing, she was trying to keep up with him and she lost her balance and fell tearing some leg ligaments, she's scheduled for surgery this week.

Each senior was given a

bright red tumbler marking the event's date along with a 2025 Texas House of Representative's calendar. After a prayer seniors enjoyed a hot Italian meal of lasagna, salad, dessert (cake), tea and coffee. A Valentine's decorated photo booth was available taking free memorial photos.

I remember the first of Ana's Valentine's seniors

dance, I can say since its beginning it's grown and doubled in size of seniors attending.

Becky Moreno who's in charge of the Moreno's Reception Hall thanked Rep. Hernandez for choosing the hall to host her Senior Valentine's Party. She said, "We are truly honored to be part of such a special celebration. I'm

grateful for having you as part of this amazing community, and we look forward to making this event a memorable one for you." The Moreno Hall is located at 319 Sheldon Rd. / office: 281-452-1727 - cell: 281-709-7911).

Continued. See VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON AND DANCE, Page 6

Galena Park 2025 Yellow Jackets Girls Basketball Team



Galena Park 2025 Lady Yellow Jackets (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Standing L-R: Coach Casey Fountain, Cailin Fountain, Merci Rue, Coach Martinez, Coach Ron Richmond

Kneeling L-R: Elizabeth Gonzalez, Daniela Rodriguez, Aracely Ayala, Julissa Montano, Savannah Roberts, Rebecca Torres, Aliyah Hernandez

Galena Park 2025 Yellow Jackets Boys Basketball Team



Galena Park Yellow Jackets Boys Basketball Team (photo by Allan Jamail)

Back Row Standing: Coach Porterfield, Coach Davis, Giobani Campos, Adrian Garza, Sean Williams, Head Coach Jason Woodall. Middle Row Standing: Melanie Rojas, Mia Balderas, Hunter James, Jovani Rojas, Armando Lopez, Domingo Perez, Thomas Cortez, Julissa Duarte.

Bottom Row Kneeling from L to R: Nathan Flores, Ryan Martinez, Joel Rivera, Alexander Reyes.

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. February 4, 2025 the swarming varsity Yellow Jackets took down Houston's Stephen F. Austin Mustangs 55 to 31 in a district game. Head Coach Jason Woodall had his team hitting on all cylinders, making sure all players got some action on the court. The Jackets final season game will be on the road against the Baytown Sterling Rangers 2-12-25 at Barnett.

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Galena Park ISD's 2024-2025 Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year



By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Congratulations to Maria Muñoz and Barika Noris for being named Galena Park ISD (GPISD) 2025 Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year!

Maria Muñoz has served as the principal of Cloverleaf Elementary School since 2023, and Barika Noris has served as the principal of North Shore Senior Ninth Grade Center [also] since 2023.

GPISD would like to congratulate Maria Muñoz and Barika Noris and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Photo Credit: Jerome Delafosse II

Mustang Glory: Nine Commit on National Signing Day



On February 5, 2025, the North Shore Senior High School auditorium was filled with excitement and pride as nine talented seniors participated in National Signing Day. These exceptional student-athletes signed letters of intent to play football at their respective colleges and universities, marking a significant milestone in their athletic careers.



The Mustangs football team—renowned for its storied championship history—has consistently produced athletes who excel both on and off the field. This year's National Signing Day was a testament to the players, coaches, and the Galena Park ISD community's dedication, hard work, and talent.

- The signed commitments are as follows:
- Kaleb Bailey** - Murray State University
- Terence Blackshure, Jr.** - Ottawa University
- Kendrick Deblanc** - Blinn College
- Jayden Green** - Langston University
- Elijah Holland** - Texas College
- Lamohnnie'Jae Jackson** - Blinn College
- Cameron Smith** - Texas Wesleyan University
- Morris Taylor, Jr.** - McNeese State University
- Chris Thomas, Jr.** - Texas Wesleyan University

Story Credit: Dr. Tommie L. Smith
Photo Credit: Edwin Rose

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the **NORTH CHANNEL STAR.** Your Hometown Newspaper.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

KHS athletes sign letters of intent for NCAA sports



Five C.E. King high school student athletes signed with their intended colleges to play football at the collegiate level. Congratulations to these determined young individuals! Mekhi Emerenini signed with Trinity Valley Community College. Isaiah Flanagan signed with Navarro Junior College. Jordan Jacobs and Harvion Sargent signed with Westgate Christian University. AJ Sprouse signed with Texas Wesleyan University. We wish these student athletes every success in their collegiate seasons and futures!

Elementary students showcase and compete in annual UIL contest



More than 500 Sheldon ISD elementary students in second through fifth grades competed in the annual UIL contest in January with an awards celebration commencing the week on January 31. There were a variety of contests including creative writing, music memory, number sense and more. The district champion is Sheldon Elementary and the runner-up is Royalwood Elementary.

KHS Student Advances to HOSA State



Five Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) members competed in the Spring Competition at Nimitz High School in early February, making school history with a win. Congratulations to Keylei Neely, a sophomore, who not only advanced to the state level but also made history as the first HOSA student from C.E. King High School to do so. The dedication and hard work of all these students shine through in their impressive achievements. Congratulations to the following students:
Ashli Alvarado (senior) placed 8th in Research Poster
Genisis Martinez & Melanie Portillo (seniors) placed 6th in Medical Art Poster
Ashley Lopez (senior) placed 9th in Family Medicine
Keylei Neely (sophomore) placed 3rd in Family Medicine and advanced to state!

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Hometown Proud

Imagine that you are sitting in a room with thirty strangers, and they are cheering for the Kansas City Chiefs. You are new to the group and to be safe, you wore a T-shirt from the 2025 Super Bowl which represented the first time two Black Quarterbacks were playing in the Super Bowl and both were from Texas. It did not take long to realize you were the minority in the room. As I scanned the room, I saw people from the Dallas area who were still talking about "back in the days, this is how Dallas did this" as well as many more who were towns that just wished they had professional sports teams. I smiled as the Eagles scored and the grumbling started in the room. They were from all over Texas, and you would have hoped they would be proud that since neither of the Texas teams made it to the Super Bowl, at least there were two quarterbacks representing the great state.

As the game progressed, I could not contain my excitement for Jalen Hurts. With every yard played and every point earned, I could not help but share with the group that while Jalen played for Channelview, he was raised in both Sterling Green and North Shore. I shared stories about him attending Judge Joe Stephens Basketball Camps as well as the years he developed skills on the field while gaining friends and a large following of fans. I shared about not only listening to his father speak on coaching his son on the field for Channelview, but on how proud his grandparents, cousins and neighbors were of him. It is not just how he performs on the field, but so much more.

Someone in the room asked if Judge Stephens was related to Joe Stephens who played basketball at University of Arkansas and you know my community pride kicked in as I shared about him playing overseas, then with the Houston Rockets. I shared about his dedication to making a difference as he went from an alumnus of North Shore to serving on the Galena Park School Board before transitioning to Justice of Peace, earning his law degree and still making the community a better play to live, work, worship and volunteer.

And that Jalen was leading his team to the victory, there were many others like him in the Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park school districts. I shared how many families are third and fourth generation residents of East Harris County. I rattled a list of individuals who perhaps they had heard of. When I mentioned that Gary Keller was one of the founding partners of Keller Green Realty, there was a stir in the room.

I captured the attention of one man who had shared that as a Boy Scout, they would work the games at TCU Stadium, and he saw Galena Park win a championship. As he tried to think of the wide receiver who played for Miami and was amazing, I shared that Howard Twilley had just passed last week. Suddenly the other men at the table were talking about how he had been a part of the two-time Super Bowl Team.

As the Eagles won the Super Bowl, the frowns of those who had been supporting the Chiefs suddenly took on smiles as they learned a little bit of why I love my community. Several of them even asked if I knew the longest serving Latina was from Houston, I smiled and let them know yes, Ana Hernandez is MY State Representative who did my oath of office for the Texas Silver Haired Legislature. As I walked to my hotel room, I could not help but be proud of the rich history of East Harris County.

Jalen Hurts Super Bowl MVP,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The offensive coordinator for the school's football team, Byron Henderson, said Channelview ISD is rallying in support of the Eagles and wore their colors at school Friday. On Sunday in New Orleans, Philadelphia faced the two-time defending champion Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX.

"I am ecstatic, and I am so proud just to know where he's come from," Henderson said of Hurts. "People think that when you make it to the NFL, that every step was given to you. It wasn't the case for him. I saw the trials and tribulations."

Hurts, 26, is a two-time Pro Bowl selection known for his proficiency as both a passer and runner. He starred collegiately at the University of Alabama and the University of Oklahoma before becoming the Eagles' starting quarterback as a second-year pro in 2021. Henderson met Hurts

when the latter was in elementary school and coached both Hurts and his brother. The Channelview coach said Hurts was a leader and would encourage those around him to perform to the best of their ability.

"He's actually one of the hardest-working young men that I have been around," Henderson said. "His work ethic has helped me be a better coach."

Hurts helped lead the Eagles to the Super Bowl after the 2022 season, when they lost 38-35 against the Chiefs. Two years later, he has another chance to be an NFL champion.

Henderson attended an Eagles game a few weeks ago and will be rooting for Hurts again on Sunday.

"The man that he has become is what I am most proud of," Henderson said. --Houston Public Media

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Is Amber really a gem?"



Amber is an organic gem. Organic gems are the products of living or once-living organisms and biological processes. Amber formed tens of millions of years ago, when sap from ancient trees hardened and fossilized. Amber is nature's time capsule. This fossilized tree resin contains remnants of life on earth, all those years ago.



Amber is probably best known for its insect and other types of inclusions. Millions of years ago, when amber oozed from countless plants, the substance acted as a sticky trap for ants, bees, termites, and other insects. Flower parts, leaves, and pine needles are also typical amber inclusions, along with gas bubbles. Amber containing larger animals like scorpions, snails, frogs, and lizards can be very valuable—especially if the animal "inclusions" are preserved intact.

Insects embedded in amber formed the basis of the movie "Jurassic Park." The story centered around the cloning of dinosaurs from DNA found in dinosaur blood sucked up by prehistoric mosquitoes that were subsequently preserved in amber. The movie generated great interest in the gem. Even today, scientists and collectors alike treasure amber that contains suspended animal or plant fragments.

Amber comes in a variety of colors. The most familiar ones are yellow to orange, while a reddish color is rare. Some types of amber are found in the ground. Other types have been freed and carried by tides, ending up on beaches or near-shore areas. The Baltic coast bordering Germany, Poland, and Russia is still an important source of amber. Amber is sometimes called "gold of the North." Its warm luster is featured in beads, carvings, pendants, and cabochons, as well as decorative items like cups, bowls, snuff boxes, and umbrella handles. A related material, called copal, is also fossilized tree resin, but it's far younger than amber, at less than a million years old.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

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If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

Top Ten

NFL Teams With Most Super Bowl Wins

1/2	New England Patriots, 6
	Pittsburgh Steelers, 6
3/4	San Francisco 49ers, 5
	Dallas Cowboys, 5
5/6	Kansas City Chiefs, 4
6/7	Green Bay Packers, 4
	New York Giants, 4
8/9	Denver Broncos, 3
9/10	L.A./Oakland Raiders, 3
	Washington Commanders, 3

Source: ProFootballNetwork.com

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



Harris County's Tax Bill will be a Sticker Shock

As I have previously shared with you, when Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo claimed that the Commissioners' Court was raising property taxes by 8%...

The Commissioners' Court set the tax rate for four entities: the County, the Hospital District, the Flood Control District, and the Port Authority. Here are the increases in the tax rate for each:

Table with 4 columns: Entity, 2023 Tax Rate, 2024 Tax Rate, Rate Increase, % Increase in Rate. Rows include County, Flood, Port, Hospital, and Total.

This shows that the tax rate for these four entities increased by 14% in just one year. To be fair, voters narrowly approved the Flood Control District's increase...

But the Flood Control portion of the County's tax bill is a relatively minor portion. Even if we eliminate the Flood Control District's rate increase...

So, there was no universe in which the tax increase was only going to be 8%, as Hidalgo promised.

But it gets worse because your actual tax bill is the product of the tax rate and the taxable value of your property. According to the last report from HCAD...

Commissioners' Court was primarily able to cram down this onerous tax increase by using a loophole that allows local governments to exceed the State imposed limits...

Harris County was not the only jurisdiction that jumped on the tax-raising bandwagon. Almost 100 other taxing entities in Harris County raised their tax rates...

Some homeowners will see truly eye-popping increases, especially if they live in a jurisdiction that raised taxes like Harris County and had a large valuation increase...

Table with 2 columns: Total Tax Bill by Year, Total Year % Diff. Rows show data for years 2020-2024.

You will notice that his tax bill declined in the previous two years, due to the property tax relief passed by the Texas Legislature...

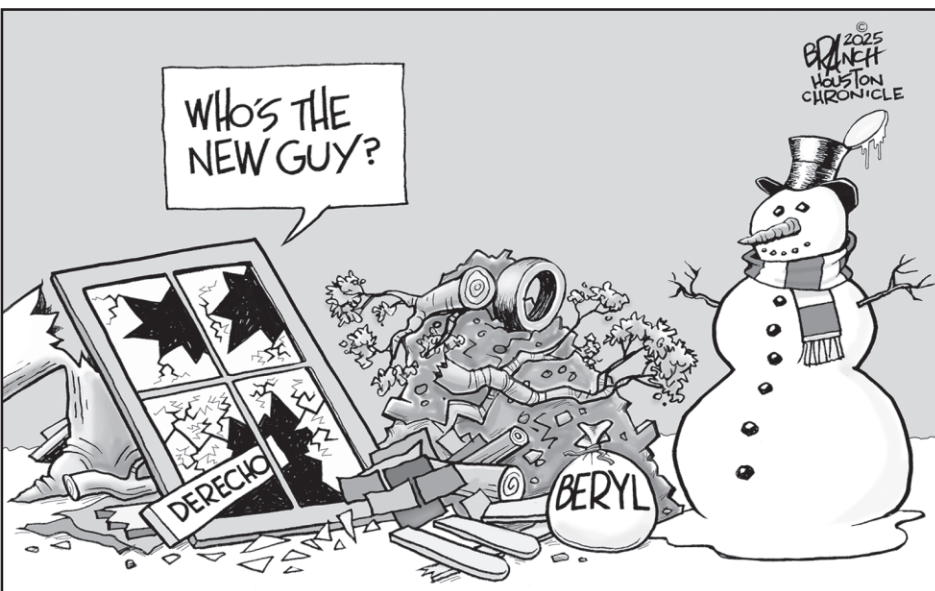
By the way, the five-year history for your home is included on the back of your tax bill or you can access it on the County Tax-Assessor's website...

This year's tax increases came on top of an average increase of over 10% last year because even though a taxing entity did not raise its tax rate, HCAD increased the average home value...

Recent polls have shown the growing frustration of young people, in particular, at the unaffordability of owning a home. The combination of a shortage of single-family homes, high interest rates...

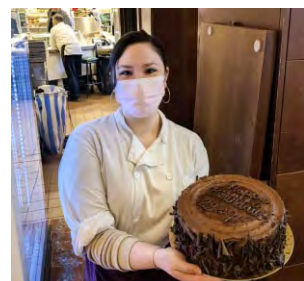
Many attribute this frustration to the trend of many younger Americans abandoning the Democratic Party in favor of more populist candidates...

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers...



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Not My Cake



My father and my niece have a wonderful tradition. Born just 69 years and one week apart...

Last year, my father turned 90 and my niece turned 21, and so I bought a single candle that said "21" on it and put in nine candles...

I thought, as long as the bakery was writing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" on the cake, they could just as easily write "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!"...

So that's what I did. A nice young woman repeated the message back to me on the phone, and I headed out the next day to pick up the cake...

"Sure!" the young man said. The cake said, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY." I knew the young woman had understood me...

"Got it!" he finally said when he returned with another cake. "Can I have a look at it?" I asked again...

"This is not my cake," I told the young man. By now, the manager—or at least a more senior member of the staff—had taken an interest...

"Aren't you Karen Carlson?" the manager asked. "No, I'm Carrie Classon." The two bakery employees looked at the cake...

"We gave someone the wrong cake," the young man announced. By now, a young woman (I believe the one who took the order) was involved...

"So sorry for the delay!" the manager said. After a long wait, a new cake appeared. "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS! 22 & 91!" it read...

They tied up the cake with very strong ribbon, and I walked home with my cake. And at least twice every block, I stopped to laugh out loud...

Because I knew Karen did not check her cake. She had already taken that cake to someone who was going to get the most confusing birthday message they have had in all their 55 years...

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Patrick Releases 25 Legislative Priorities

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has released his top 25 legislative priorities as the legislative session gets underway. The Texas Tribune reported...

Patrick released a statement saying his priorities guarantee the Texas Senate, over which he presides, "will continue to lead as the preeminent legislative body in America..."

He said he plans to release an additional 15 priority bills soon, for a total of 40.

FLU CASES SPIKING ACROSS THE STATE

The number of influenza cases is rising rapidly, the Austin American-Statesman reported, particularly in North Texas where at least two school districts were forced to close because of excessive absences...

"Which is just an astronomical number," Dr. Stephanie Felton, attending physician at Cook Children's Medical Center, said. "Every year, we obviously see the flu. This year, I will say, that we're seeing an abundance of it, as far as the numbers."

Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, headaches, and a runny or stuffy nose. Severe symptoms can last up to three days, while less-severe symptoms can hang around for up to two weeks.

ABBOTT SEEKS FED REIMBURSEMENT FOR BORDER SECURITY. Gov. Greg Abbott has asked the federal government to reimburse Texas for the \$11.1 billion the state has spent in the past four years in Operation Lone Star...

MORE THAN 20 BILLS FILED TO WEAKEN VACCINE REQUIREMENTS. More than 20 bills have been filed for this legislative session that aim to claw back vaccine requirements...

MEASLES CASES CONFIRMED IN WEST TEXAS, HOUSTON. Two cases of measles have been confirmed in school-aged children in West Texas a few weeks after two cases were reported in a pair of Houston residents...

DATA CENTERS ARE BOOMING ACROSS TEXAS. The Lone Star State is "ground zero" for the boom in data centers to meet growing demand...

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Gilbert Hoffman. ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman. MANAGING EDITOR: David Taylor...

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Sherrhonda Hunter Black History Month Honoree,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

saying "WHITES ONLY".

The 2025 Black History Month theme is; *African Americans and Labor*, it focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.

My first 2025 Black History Month Honoree is Sherrhonda Sherrard Hunter. She's definitely a "poster child" for this year's theme. There are very few if any events of the Galena Park School District (GPSID) where you'll not be able to notice her involvement in them.

The North Channel is blessed with many talented professionals and Sherrhonda is one of them. She's a valuable asset to the School District where she's serving as Executive Director for School and Community Relations. I recognize deserving individuals who are successes in their professions and who possess a servant-spirit like Sherrhonda.

Mrs. Hunter has always been one of those you never see or hear from publicly because they're a behind the scenes person, working in the shadows, but they're the ones making things happen. This lady has been a mover and shaker working on many of the district's successful programs for years."

Sherrhonda Sherrard Hunter exemplifies the transformative power of education and the impact of dedicated leadership in uplifting all members of her community. As a proud 1995 alumna and current Executive Director for School and Community Relations at Galena Park Independent School District (GPSID), Mrs. Hunter's journey is a testament to perseverance, faith, and an unwavering commitment to serving others and celebrating their successes.

Born and raised in the GPSID community, Mrs. Hunter's path to success began as a first-generation college student. She went on to earn her Bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University in 1999 and her Master's in Educational Administration from Prairie View A&M University in 2004. Currently pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University, Mrs. Hunter continues to embody the principle that education is the great equalizer and that the transformative potential of education and its importance can create a more equitable society.

Mrs. Hunter's commitment to education is further demonstrated by her professional certifications. She holds Texas certifications as a Teacher (EC-12), Principal (EC-12), and Superintendent, showcasing her comprehensive understanding of the educational system at multiple levels.

"Education, commitment to excellence, and dedication has the power to open doors and create opportunities that were once unimaginable," Mrs. Hunter says with conviction. "It's not just about personal success; it's about lifting up others, remaining committed to the cause, and ensuring everyone has access to quality educational opportunities."

Growing up, Mrs. Hunter was taught the value of perseverance. Her mother instilled in her the principle that you must finish what you start, a practice

Mrs. Hunter has maintained throughout her life. This early lesson in dedication has shaped her approach to education and her career.

"My mother never allowed me to quit," Mrs. Hunter reflects. "She taught me that true growth comes from pushing through challenges, even when it's difficult. This mindset has been the cornerstone of my educational philosophy and my professional journey."

This unwavering commitment is why Mrs. Hunter is so dedicated to her role in education. She believes in the transformative power of learning and strives to create an environment where all students and coworkers can thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.

With over 25 years in education, Mrs. Hunter's career has been marked by steady progression and groundbreaking achievements. From her beginnings as a classroom teacher in GPSID, she advanced to become an Assistant Principal, Associate Principal, and, later, the first African American Principal of the Joyce Zotz Education Center. Her current role as Executive Director for School and Community Relations allows her to impact the district on a broader scale, serving people from all walks of life and celebrating the diverse successes within her community.

Mrs. Hunter's leadership style is deeply rooted in her Christian faith, always emphasizing empathy, dignity, and respect. While she is known to have a 'no-nonsense personality,' those who know her well find her endearing and lovable. As she says, "to know her is to love her." This unique blend of firmness and compassion in her leadership approach has been particularly impactful in her work with at-risk students. During her tenure as the Principal of the District's Alternative School, she helped countless students rediscover their potential and succeed.

"Witnessing students who had lost hope graduate high school and become successful professionals is a constant reminder of my 'why' - the driving force behind my passion for education," Mrs. Hunter reflects.

A defining characteristic of Mrs. Hunter's work ethic is her commitment to working behind the scenes to ensure others have opportunities and to celebrate their successes. Her goal is always to make sure the district she loves looks good, and she takes great pride in ensuring that all products published by her team are of five-star quality. This dedication to excellence and selfless promotion of others' achievements has become a hallmark of her leadership.

Family plays a crucial role in Mrs. Hunter's life and motivations. She is the daughter of Charles Sr. and Joyce Sherrard, both proud graduates of Fidelity Manor High School, and the sister of Charles Sherrard, Jr., a Galena Park High School graduate. This rich family history within Galena Park ISD has deeply influenced Mrs. Hunter's commitment to her community and her career in education.

As the wife of Ryan Hunter and a mother of three, Mrs. Hunter strives to balance her career aspirations with her commitment to family. Her children are also products of

GPSID, with Deondre graduating in 2019, Damarcus in 2022, and Saniah set to graduate in 2025. This multi-generational connection to the district further strengthens Mrs. Hunter's dedication to its success. Her achievements serve as an inspiration to her children and extended family, demonstrating that with hard work and determination, any goal is attainable.

"My family's legacies in this community and their support have been instrumental in shaping my path," Mrs. Hunter reflects. "I'm proud to continue this tradition of educational excellence and community service."

Mrs. Hunter's faith is an integral part of her life. She is a devoted and active member of St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church in Fidelity, under the leadership of Dr. Leroy Lacy, Jr. Her commitment to the church extends beyond attendance; Mrs. Hunter works closely with the youth department, further demonstrating her passion for guiding and nurturing young people both in and out of the educational setting. This active participation in her church community exemplifies her dedication to service, spiritual growth, and investing in the next generation.

Looking to the future, Mrs. Hunter aspires to continue climbing the educational leadership ladder within GPSID. Her Superintendent certification and educational advancement positions her well for this aspiration. She sees this not only as a personal achievement but as an opportunity to inspire others and effect positive change on a larger scale.

'My journey in education has always been about more than personal success,' Mrs. Hunter explains. 'It's about finding opportunities to improve our educational system and create better outcomes for our students. As I advance in my career, my focus remains on how I can use each new role to innovate, mentor others, champion public schools, and educational excellence for all.'

Throughout her career, Mrs. Hunter has been guided by a personal motto: "If I can help somebody as I pass along the way, then my living won't be in vain." This philosophy underscores her commitment to service, her belief in the ripple effect of positive actions, and her dedication to lifting up others in her community.

My story of Sherrhonda Sherrard Hunter is one of her breaking barriers, lifelong learning, and giving back to her community. As we celebrate Black History Month, her journey serves as an inspiring example of how education, faith, and dedication can lead to personal success and community empowerment. Mrs. Hunter continues to pave the way for future generations, embodying the spirit of progress and achievement that Black History Month honors, all while working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of others and the district she holds dear.

Lady Mustangs Come from Behind, Advance in Playoffs

North Shore 56 - Dickinson 48



North Shore Lady Mustangs Basketball Team (Photo by Linda Jamail)
Standing L-R: Asst. Coach Gisele Price, Asst. Coach Francesca Okwara-Fisher, Aziah Jackson, Kionti Johnson, Teyuanna Bass, Breliane Anderson (injured Black shirt), Manager Kevyn Cole, Aijia Torres, Ja'Niya Coleman (behind #5 and #2), Brooklyn Walker (#2), Aryanna Boston, Asst. Coach Tykejah Hall, Kobe Johnson (#11), Head Coach Curtis Bason, Yaslyn Gonzales (#10)
Sitting L-R: Chamere Bailey, Khrystin Davis, Shakirria Wright (Injured Black Shirt), Ketra Burrough; not in the photo, Manager Lakendria Davis & Student Trainer Valeria Lerin.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. February 10, 2025 on a neutral site at Dobie High School's basketball court the Mustangs under Head Coach Curtis Bason fought and climbed back to win after trailing at halftime, Gators 25 – Mustangs 19.

The game was a nail-biter to the end with both team's fans loudly cheer-

ing their team on.

Coach Bason continually shouted at courtside to the players he needed them to take as they moved up and down the court. During timeouts he stressed his game winning strategy to the exhausted but fired-up players. When the final seconds ticked off the Mustangs had come from behind to win 56 – 48.

Nshore has won 6 of their last 8 games. Their next opponent hasn't yet been determined.

They will play either Dawson or Fort Bend Travis in Area Play on one of these days, Thurs., Feb 13 thru Sat. Feb. 15.

Linda Jamail, statistician & photographer.

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LEGAL NOTICE

CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS For the Year Ended August 31, 2024						
Data Control Codes	General Fund	ESSER III	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues						
5700 Local, intermediate, and out-of-state	\$ 39,517,292	\$ -	\$ 19,386,156	\$ 468,703	\$ 1,369,192	\$ 60,741,343
5800 State program revenues	63,679,563	-	1,375,299	-	1,699,972	66,754,834
5900 Federal program revenues	1,022,803	10,065,085	-	-	15,060,954	26,148,842
5020 Total Revenues	104,219,658	10,065,085	20,761,455	468,703	18,130,118	153,645,019
Expenditures						
Current:						
0011 Instruction	64,697,555	7,868,708	-	-	7,485,132	80,051,395
0012 Instruction resources and media services	958,203	627,075	-	-	-	1,585,278
0013 Curriculum and instructional staff development	1,294,079	-	-	-	-	1,294,079
0021 Instructional leadership	2,490,609	91,783	-	-	49,212	2,631,604
0023 School leadership	6,258,875	936,209	-	-	-	7,195,084
0031 Guidance, counseling and evaluation services	3,371,048	271,805	-	-	1,325,559	4,968,412
0033 Health services	1,007,958	-	-	-	-	1,007,958
0034 Student transportation	4,614,597	-	-	-	-	4,614,597
0035 Food services	-	-	-	-	8,353,582	8,353,582
0036 Extracurricular activities	2,251,943	-	-	-	28,177	2,280,120
0041 General administration	4,412,808	-	-	-	-	4,412,808
0051 Facilities maintenance and operations	16,027,863	16,599	-	-	-	16,044,462
0052 Security and monitoring services	2,490,261	-	-	-	-	2,490,261
0053 Data processing services	2,361,653	252,906	-	-	-	2,614,559
Debt service:						
0071 Principal on long-term debt	145,008	-	25,325,000	-	2,195	25,472,203
0072 Interest on long-term debt	14,786	-	9,048,815	-	224	9,063,825
Capital outlay:						
0081 Facilities acquisition and construction	600,104	-	-	6,521,279	-	7,121,383
6030 Total Expenditures	112,997,350	10,065,085	34,373,815	6,521,279	17,244,081	181,201,610
1100 Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(8,777,692)	-	(13,612,360)	(6,052,576)	886,037	(27,556,591)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
7915 Transfers in	-	-	-	-	157,237	157,237
8911 Transfers out	(553,598)	-	-	-	(157,237)	(710,835)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(553,598)	-	-	-	-	(553,598)
1200 Net change in fund balances	(9,331,290)	-	(13,612,360)	(6,052,576)	886,037	(28,110,189)
0100 Fund Balances - Beginning	45,985,300	-	22,291,059	11,038,034	6,157,685	85,472,078
3000 Fund Balances - Ending	\$ 36,654,010	\$ -	\$ 8,678,699	\$ 4,985,458	\$ 7,043,722	\$ 57,361,889

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Anya Taylor-Joy, left, and Miles Teller star in "The Gorge."

"Kinda Pregnant"

"KINDA PREGNANT" (R) — Rally your friends, get some snacks and adult beverages, then gather around for a proper girls' night with this hysterical comedy film out now on streaming. Starring Amy Schumer ("Unfrosted"), who also co-wrote the script, the film centers around Lainy, who's pretty much your average woman. And of course, it is sometimes natural for the average woman to experience jealousy after her best friend falls pregnant. What isn't natural, however, is a woman putting on a fake belly to appease her envy. But this is exactly what Lainy does, and as she soon finds out when she meets the man of her dreams, her fake belly might not have been the best approach. Jillian Bell ("Reunion"), Will Forte ("That '90s Show"), and Brianne Howey ("Ginny & Georgia") co-star. (Netflix) ***

"BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY" (R) — "Bridget Jones" is the film franchise that keeps on giving, with an astonishing 24 years between the release of the original film and the fourth installment, which will shortly be available to stream on Feb. 13. Renee Zellweger reprises her role as the titular character, who now navigates life as a single mom. With people around her eager to get her back in the saddle when it comes to dating, Bridget finally decides to try her hand at it when a younger man named Roxster (Leo Woodall) shoots his shot. Although she attempts to get enveloped by this new love interest, memories of her former husband still fill her mind, leaving her to crave a more secure and stable man who could be a better match. Guess we'll have to wait and see who Bridget Jones finally ends up with! Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, and Colin Firth reprise their

roles from the previous films as well. (Peacock) ***

"THE GORGE" (PG-13) — Miles Teller took a break from acting after an exciting 2022 with the release of "Top Gun: Maverick." Now he's back ahead of his role as John Branca in the upcoming biopic "Michael," and he stars opposite Anya Taylor-Joy ("Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga") in this film that has a taste of many genres — sci-fi, horror, action, and a bit of romance! Out on Feb. 14, "The Gorge" follows two elite operatives named Levi (Teller) and Drasa (Taylor-Joy), who are tasked with guarding either side of a mysterious gorge. These two snipers must carry out their mission without contacting one another, but with the gorge being described as the "door to hell," they are forced to work together when the evil inside of the gorge finally emerges. (Apple TV+) ***

"YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED" (R) — The romantic comedies are in full supply this week! Starring two A-list actors Will Ferrell and Reese Witherspoon, this movie is reminiscent of others like "Shotgun Wedding" (2022), where viewers just know they're going to be taken on an unbelievably wild ride in a traditional wedding setting. Ferrell plays single father Jim, whose daughter plans to get married in a small inn; the catch is, Margot (Witherspoon) also booked the same inn on the same day for her sister and future brother-in-law. When the two parties show up on the same weekend, Jim and Margot start scrambling to figure out how to keep the peace. Lucky for us viewers, their plans backfire into buffoonery. Out now! (Amazon Prime) (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q:I really enjoyed the first two seasons of "The Recruit" on Netflix. It's hard to tell if there will be a third one. Will there be? — K.W.

A: It's too soon to tell, but after the first season of the spy-adventure series "The Recruit" debuted on Netflix, it was a big streaming success. The series stars Noah Centineo ("The Fosters") as a rookie CIA lawyer. His first assignment involved Russia, but the second season that premiered on Jan. 30 led him to Seoul, South Korea, where he's assigned to rescue the wife of a rogue NIS agent (Teo Yoo).

Showrunner Alexi Hawley, whose previous producing credits include "The Rookie," views Centineo's character, Owen, as "flawed, young and selfish." Hawley further explains that "even though Owen had no business getting involved [in the Korean assignment] in the first place, this presented an opportunity for him to prove his worth — not only to the CIA but to everyone he disappointed last season, including himself." The creative team really wanted to see him grow up this second time around and show that it's "not all fun and games — people get killed."

As far as a season three renewal, the show's fate isn't known yet. According to Forbes, Netflix typically analyzes a show's performance over several weeks to months before deciding. Unfortunately, the streamer has also developed a reputation for canceling shows too quickly after just one or two seasons, but hopefully with its strong initial numbers, "The Recruit" will be given the green light. ***

Q:When is the new "Outlander" spin-off coming out? Will it also be on Starz or somewhere else? — D.P.

A: "Outlander: Blood of My Blood" is a prequel series to "Outlander," which recently wrapped up its seventh season (the eighth will be its last) on Starz. The prequel will have 10 episodes in its debut season, but it won't premiere until this summer. It did, however, drop a teaser just ahead of the "Outlander" finale a couple weeks ago.

According to Entertainment Weekly, "Blood of My Blood" will tell the story of the parents of Jamie (Sam Heughan) and Claire (Caitriona Balfe), as well as their respective love stories in both 18th-century



Noah Centineo stars in "The Recruit" on Netflix.

Scotland and World-War-I-era England. Matthew B. Roberts, one of the co-showrunners behind "Outlander," will write and preside over the new series. ***

Q: What ever happened to Paula Patton? I remember she was married to Robin Thicke, but wasn't she also an actress? — M.M.

A: Paula Patton divorced her pop-star husband and high-school sweetheart Robin Thicke in 2015 and appears to be living a peaceful life if you follow her Instagram account. The terms of their divorce settlement are private, but she still does acting jobs to exercise her creativity and supplement her income.

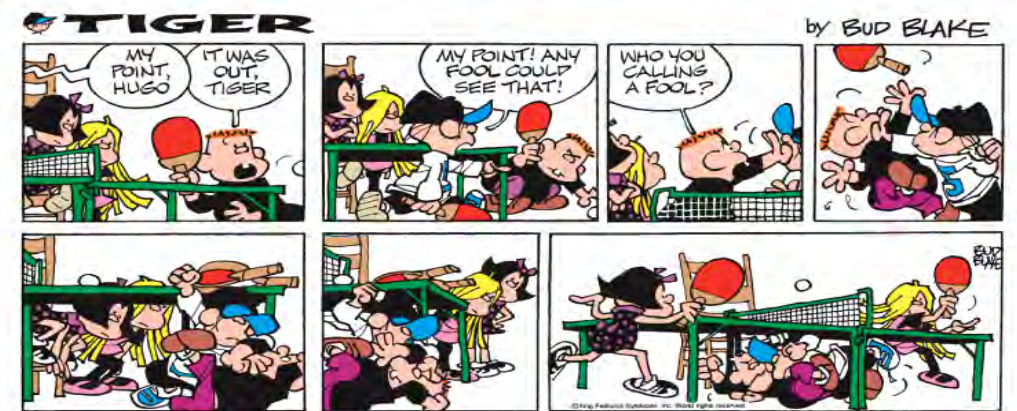
Patton most recently guest-starred on the new drama "Murder in a Small Town," but before this, she starred in the BET+ original series "Sacrifice" as well as "Somewhere Between" on ABC. She and Thicke share a 14-year-old son named Julian.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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February 10, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 22 mins.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on geography, television, literature, U.S. states, astronomy, movies, ad slogans, language, science, and general knowledge.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Mount Logan; 2. Jeff Probst; 3. Pigs; 4. Mississippi; 5. 27.3 days; 6. 179; 7. Gatorade; 8. A rubber; 9. Gold, silver, platinum and palladium; 10. Lupercalia



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